ANNUAL REPORT

ON

INLAND EMIGRATION TO THE DISTRICTS

OF

ASSAM, CACHAR, AND SYLHET

During the year ended 31st March 1876.

BY

J. G. G. GRANT, M.D.,

Superintendent of Emigration.

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No. 4426, dated Calcutta, the 23rd December 1876.

From—J. G. G. GRANT, Esq., M.D., Superintendent of Emigration,
To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the annual report on inland emigration to the districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet during the year ended the 31st of March 1876, together with the returns (marginally noted) for the same period.

A.—Statement of emigrants embarked through contractors.
B —Ditto ditto recruited through sirdars
C —Return of emigrants passed through Dhubri.
D —Ditto ditto embarked at Dhubri
E —Statement showing receipts and charges

2. *Medical Inspector of Emigrants.*—Dr. W. J. Palmer continued to officiate for Dr. F. N. Macnamara until the 4th December 1875, when the latter returned from Europe and resumed his duties. On the 10th February following, however, he resigned the appointment, and was succeeded by Dr. W. J. Palmer as Medical Inspector. It is due to Dr. Macnamara to state that he was the first Medical Inspector of Laborers in connection with their regulated transport to the districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet, having been appointed on the 18th of April 1863; and that while he held office, especially during the first organisation of the present system, when, therefore, its initiatory difficulties had to be overcome, constant efforts were not wanting on his part to secure the welfare of the coolie both in depôt and during transport.

3. *The Office and Establishment.*—No alteration occurred as to the place where the Office was held, nor were there any material changes in the establishment, beyond the dismissal for misconduct of the 2nd Clerk, until about the middle of January last, when it underwent revision and was amalgamated with the Office of the Protector of Emigrants—an arrangement decidedly advantageous to both Offices. The attendance of the establishment was on the whole satisfactory, and so also their general application under the continued efficient supervision of Mr. Forbes, the Personal Assistant.

4. The correspondence of the year was unusually heavy. The following table shows that it exceeded that of the previous year by more than half as many, and that of the year 1873-74 by more than twice as many letters:—

NUMBER OF LETTERS		1873-74	1874-75.	1875-76
Received ...	...	.. 2,862	3,851	6,619
Despatched ,,	...	1,253	2,448	3,005
	Total	... 4,115	6,299	9,624

This very great increase was due not only to the increased activity of emigration work consequent upon the larger demands for labor, but also to the additional correspondence which necessarily arose out of the separation from Bengal of the districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet, and of their formation into a distinct province, under the administration of a Chief Commissioner.

5 *Emigration Act and Rules.*—There were no changes in the provisions of Act VII (B.C.) of 1873, but some of the regulations were altered with advantage. Rule 96 was further amended and the period prescribed for the supply of warm clothing to emigrants was extended to the month of March, both alterations having been made in order to ensure emigrants under transport more efficient protection against the injurious effects of cold, which it has been reasonably urged is one of the many causes tending to increase the mortality on the passage to Assam. A concurrence of opinion against the use of red pumpkin (koomra) as an article of diet, especially for Danghur coolies, led to the exclusion of that vegetable from the diet scale, and the substitution of an equivalent supply of potato.

6. *Contractors.*—Of the eleven contractors named below, ten held licenses during the previous year, and then only one—Mr. Durham—was licensed for the first time within the year under consideration:—

Contractors.	License granted.		License cancelled.		Situation of depôts.
	1874-75.	1875-76.	1874-75.	1875-76.	
Mr. T. H. Bennertz	25th March 1875 ...	25th March 1876 ...	.....	....	141, Scaldah.
Baboo G. C. Dutt	20th May 1874 ...	21st May 1875 ...	.....	.....	139 „
Mr. O. B. Andrews	8th January 1875 ...	8th January 1876 ...	.....	.....	23, Middle Road, Entally.
Baboo H. L. Mookerjee	30th March „ ..	30th March „ ...	.....	.....	34 „ „ ..
„ R. N. Bannerjee	1st September 1874 ...	1st September 1875 ...	.....	.....	36 „ „ „
Mr. R. Hendry	2nd March 1875 ...	2nd March 1876 ...	.....	.. ..	14, North „ „
„ J. K. Mahomed	17th August 1874 ...	17th August 1875 ...	.....	.....	136, Scaldah.
Baboo D. N. Mittor	13th October „ ...	13th October „ ...	.....	.....	13, Canal Street.
„ Bachoo Lall	23rd December 1874 ...	23rd December „ ...	.....	.....	25, Middle Road, Entally.
„ B. P. Mitter	14th February 1875 ...	13th February 1876 ...	.....	.....	7-1, Scaldah.
Mr. W. Durham	... ..	6th August 1875 ...	.....	.....	19, North Road, Entally.

Though recruitment through garden sirdars was also in active operation, it is clear not only that the demand for labor through contractors was not diminished, but that in cases when laborers were wanted speedily and in large numbers, the contractors were freely applied to in some instances for the laborers themselves; in others for experienced assistance, as forwarding agents, for the despatch of batches originally collected by sirdars, who are, as a rule, quite incapable of arranging for the proper care and conveyance of large numbers, subjected as they must necessarily be to the provisions of the Act and rules regulating transport.

With at least two exceptions, the manner in which the contractors generally conducted their duties was on the whole fairly satisfactory, but, as stated in last year's annual report, there was room for improvement; and in the case of the two contractors above referred to, irregularities on the part of their subordinates, aggravated by their own want of care, led, as already specially reported to Government, to the cancelment of their licenses, though as this very extreme measure was not resorted until ample warning and time for improvement had been given by this Office, these cancellations were not effected during the period under review, but more recently.

7. *Depôts.*—The above statement shows, moreover, where the several licensed depôts are established. The suburbs, Scaldah and Entally, besides affording many convenient sites for coolie depôts, possess the advantage of being within easy distance of the Eastern Bengal Railway, by which the emigrants are forwarded to either Goalundo or Kooshtea for embarkation; and though the establishment of so many separate depôts is not altogether free from disadvantages, there has necessarily been less risk of objectionable overcrowding. The depôts have been kept in very fair order, and, judging from what I have noticed in the course of my regular weekly and other irregular visits, and from the general absence of any serious complaints, I have reason to believe that their temporary inmates have been well fed and cared for.

In regard to the extent of sickness and mortality among the coolies in these depôts, Dr. Palmer, in comparing contractors' with *sirdari* coolies, makes the following observations:—

"Emigrants on arrival in Calcutta are at once admitted to depôts, the largest contractors having separate depôts for *sirdari* people and those recruited by their own sub-agents. All these are medically examined as soon after admission as is practicable. The total number so admitted during the year was 23,534, and of these 1,040 were rejected as unfit to proceed; 536 being sent to

depôt hospital for treatment, and 504 finally rejected and sent to their homes Thus one person in every 28 is 'rejected.' Complaints occasionally come from Assam that the medical examination at Calcutta is not conducted with sufficient rigour; on the other hand, merchants in Calcutta, who, as agents of tea companies, select laborers for transmission, frequently complain that the examination is extremely rigorous. When it is remembered that all the people are medically examined at their own zillahs and 'passed' as 'fit' before being sent to Calcutta, it will be apparent that some care at least is exercised, and it may even be doubted whether the merchants have not some justification for their complaints.

"Of the total of 23,534 admitted, 17,040 were 'contractors' and 6,494 '*sirdari.*' The proportion of the latter rejected was only one in 66, while in the former it was one in 24. This difference would appear to indicate that the *sirdari* are a better class of emigrants than contractors' coolies; that this is not so, however, will be shown hereafter. In the meanwhile two chief causes of this difference may be pointed out. *Sirdari* coolies emigrate for the most part in large families, frequently whole villages—infants, aged, and infirm, as well as able-bodied laborers. The depression, distress, and even anguish caused amongst people so placed, by the rejection of any one member of their tribe or family, possibly induces the Medical Inspector to be less searching in his examination of them than of the contractors' coolies, many of whom are single and unconnected people. * * * *

"After admission contractors' coolies are well looked after in every way, but *sirdari* are allowed more liberty and license with regard to food. All, however, are detained in depôt at least four days under observation before being sent away. During this period they are vaccinated, and revaccinated if the first operation was not successful; they are also carefully watched for the detection of any disease or unsoundness not at once apparent, such as chronic diseases of bowels, &c., epilepsy, asthma, imbecility, opium or ganja smoking. In the meanwhile the healthy ones amongst them are shown to agents who wish to engage them; selected by those agents and again medically examined, and passed as fit to undertake the journey to Assam, &c. During this interval some fall sick and are sent to hospital for treatment; those suffering from contagious diseases to a building separate from the others. A large proportion of the sick are cured, and emigrate at a later period; some, however, die. The causes of death are classed in the tabular statement appended herewith as—first, cholera, and second, all other diseases. The total number of deaths from cholera in the year under review was 35, of which number 21 occurred amongst the *sirdari* people, or one in 461, whilst amongst contractors' people only 14 deaths occurred from this disease, or three in 4,553. The total deaths from other diseases were 52, of which 24 were *sirdari*, being one in every 307, and 28 were amongst contractors' people, being one death in every 615.

"The great excess of mortality amongst *sirdari* as contrasted with contractors' coolies, though partly due to the liberty and license above referred to, is chiefly owing to another fact above mentioned, *viz.*, the large proportion of very young and very old people amongst them; both these classes being naturally more liable to death than the people in the prime of life who are chiefly seen in contractors' coolies.

"Most of the people are in this manner forwarded to the several tea districts within one week of their arrival at Calcutta. The details of numbers admitted and despatched in the several months of the year are given in the accompanying tables" (Nos. 8 and 9).

The detention in depôt did not exceed the limit prescribed by law; the maximum having been 24 days, and the minimum only five days.

8. *Recruitment.*—The number of licensed recruiters employed during the past year was, as shown in the following table, greatly in excess of the number employed during the previous year—a result due to the increased demand for

labor, and the difficulty of obtaining it under the circumstances without increasing largely the staff of recruiting agents:—

Contractors.	Recruiting licenses.						Percentage of cancellation.		
	Granted.			Cancelled.					
	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.
Baboo G. C. Dutt	39	79	107	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	9·34
Mr. W. Durham	.....	.....	33	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	12·5
„ J. K. Mahomed	.....	25	99	.....	.....	2	.....	... ..	2·02
Baboo K. N. Bannerjee	20	13	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
„ D. N. Miller	.....	5	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
„ Bachoo Lall	.....	10	41	.....	.....	2	... ...	.....	4·87
Mr. C. B Andrews	65	105	116	1	2	11	1·53	1·90	1·69
Baboo B. P. Mitter	12	9	23	.....	.....	.....	.....	... ..	.....
Mr. R. Hendry	66	105	111	... ..	1	8	.....	0·95	7·20
„ T. H. Bennerts	37	64	93	1	1	2	2·70	1·56	2 15
Baboo H. L. Mookerjee	45	57	106	1	.....	4	2·22	... ..	3·77
Total ...	284	472	766	3	4	43	1·05	·84	5 61

The terms offered and stated below continued the same as those offered during the previous years; but I am inclined to the opinion that, under the inducements held out, it is only the most needy classes that can be persuaded to leave their homes for the labor districts.

Classification of Emigrants.	Monthly rate of wages.	Duration of labor.	House accommodation.	Garden ground.	Medicine and medical attendance.	Period of service.	Remarks.
	Rs. A. P.						
Males of 16 years of age ..	5 0 0	A full day's work.	Free of rent.	To be provided, if possible, with house accommodation.	Free of charges.	3 years.	When the price of rice rises above Rs. 3 per maund, the employer is to pay the excess cost over Rs. 3.
Females of 16 years of age	4 0 0						
Minors of both sexes below 16 years.	No fixed rates.	Work is optional.					

The necessity that has existed for increasing so largely the number of recruiters, and the irregularities they have been tempted to commit in their efforts to obtain laborers, seem to indicate that the terms offered are not so favorable, under ordinary circumstances and in the absence of scarcity, as to bring about a free supply in satisfaction of the demands for labor. One of the results attending this condition of things was the necessity under which this Office was placed of cancelling, for various irregularities, the licenses of an unusually large number of recruiters; for, after making allowance for the fact that the late accession to the strength of this Office has placed it in a position to detect and enquire more fully into such irregularities, this circumstance alone does not account for the very large number of recruiting licenses (5·61 per cent.) which it has been found necessary to cancel; especially when it is considered that the addition to the staff of this Office was not made till about the middle of January last, and that the precautionary measures adopted in the first instance, with the view of licensing none but those reported to bear good characters, had not been relaxed in the slightest degree.

9. *Intending Emigrants.*—The total number of laborers and their dependants who were registered during the past year for the labor districts, and recruited by licensed recruiters and garden sirdars collectively, appears to have been 33,175. Of this number, 2,516 were recruited by garden sirdars for embarkation at Dhubri, and will therefore be accounted for under its appropriate heading; but the remainder, 30,659, were intended for transmission through Calcutta, and were for the most part embarked at Goalundo, a comparatively small number having embarked at Kooshtea. I may here observe that, apart from all other considerations, the transmission of coolies through Calcutta affords the Calcutta agents for employers, and in some cases the employers themselves, opportunities and facilities for seeing and selecting their laborers personally, and perhaps of arranging more conveniently than they otherwise could for the despatch of their *sirdari* batches.

The following tabular statement gives an abstract of some of the chief particulars in connection with the 30,659 souls who were registered for transmission through Calcutta, on their way to the labor districts, during the period under review. They are grouped under three classes, A, B, and C, and some details in regard to them from the time of registration to that of their arrival in the labor districts are given, with the view of exhibiting a tolerably connected account of the principal circumstances attending their recruitment for those districts :—

Classification.			Particulars of journey to Calcutta.						Particulars of accommodation in Calcutta depôts.												Particulars of journey up to place of embarkation.								Particulars of conveyance to labor districts.					
Mode of recruitment.	How transmitted.	Total number registered in recruiting districts.	Left behind.		Absconded.		Died.		Number arrived in depôt.	Total number in depôt, including those remaining from last year.	Discharged.				Placed under medical treatment.		Absconded.		Died.		Permitted to proceed to place of embarkation.	Remaining in depôts undisposed of.	Discharged as unwilling.		Died.		Absconded.		Left behind.		Number embarked.	Absconded.		Died.		Landed at destination.	
			Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.			Medically rejected.		Unwilling.										Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.		Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	District.
I.—Through contractors.	A. Through their licensed depôts.	16,542	*79	0·47	297	1·79	8	0·04	16,158	17,040	481	2·82	346	1·99	511	2·99	998	5·85	42	0·24	14,094	624	16	0·11	20	0·14	22	0·15	...	...	11,238	12	0·10	150	1·33	11,076	Assam.
																															2,641	36	1·13	16	0·60	2,595	Cachar.
																															157	1	0·63	4	2·54	152	Sylhet.
II.—Through garden sirdars.	B. Through contractors' depôts.	6,336	*7	0·11	23	0·36	2	0·03	6,304	6,494	73	1·07	5	0·07	25	0·37	69	1·06	45	0·85	5,395	882	27	0·50	89	1·64	22	0·40	...	...	5,125	3	0·05	130	2·53	4,992	Assam.
																															132	...	...	...	...	132	Cachar.
																															None	...	...	...	...	None	Sylhet.
	C. Independently of contractors' depôts.	7,781	..	...	..	..	.	.	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...		.....	...	...	...	...	...	105	1·34	85	1·09	†101	...	...	...	...	101	Assam.
																															‡7,257	...	...	248	3·41	7,009	Cachar.
																															‡233	...	...	10	4·24	223	Sylhet.
	Total	30,659	86	0·28	320	1·04	10	0·32	22,462	23,534	554	2·14	345	1·04	536	2·27	1,067	4·53	87	0·36	19,489	1,506	43	0·22	109	0·55	149	0·76	85	0·43	26,884	46	0·17	556	2·07	26,280	

* Left behind, being unwilling to emigrate subsequent to registration.
† Embarked at Goalundo and brought under the four days' observation rule. No deaths.
‡ Excepting 840, all embarked, independently of supervision, in small batches.

On taking a comprehensive view of the total number transmitted through the depôts—classes A and B—it appears from the information available in this Office that between the period of registration and that of arrival in the labor districts the average percentage of those who were left behind or discharged as unwilling to proceed amounts to 2·07; of those who absconded to 6·45; and of those who died to 2·21. At first sight these percentages may appear comparatively large; but when it is considered that those who refuse to proceed or abscond are frequently accompanied by a number of relatives or friends who are merely influenced and have no decided will of their own in the matter, the number who may be said actually to determine these results is probably not more than or about a third of the total number represented. The chief causes which induce emigrants to abscond or demand their discharge are the deceptions practised by recruiters, either directly or indirectly, through unlicensed agents secretly employed by them. Those guilty of such irregularities, when brought to the notice of Magistrates in recruiting districts, or the officers in this department, are of course as severely dealt with as the circumstances of each case and the provisions of the law will allow; on the other hand, some coolies desire to be released from their engagements without assigning any reason beyond that of having changed their minds.

Then as to the death-rate; as the mortality during transit is due chiefly to cholera, it cannot on the whole be regarded as excessive, in view of the fact that coolies from Chota Nagpore and places adjacent to it, whence laborers for the tea districts are chiefly drawn, are singularly prone to cholera on entering the plains. With reference to class C, or those who went up independently of the contractors' depôts, and, therefore, of all direct supervision, especially during transit, the information available cannot be considered so reliable as that obtained in the case of coolies transmitted through licensed depôts; indeed, the absence of really trustworthy statistics relating to coolies while travelling independently so far impairs the value of any comparisons which may be drawn between the data available in regard to them and those furnished in regard to coolies conducted to the labor districts under closer supervision as to render conclusions based on them very doubtful. It will be noticed, however, that, according to the figures furnished, while the percentage of those who absconded or were left behind during transit is much lower than that of contractors' coolies, the death-rate, as usual, is much higher. It may be further noticed that of this class (C) 101 souls embarked for Assam from Goalundo; they were therefore brought under the four days' observation rule at that place, and ultimately arrived at their destination without a single death; whereas a large majority of the remainder, all except 840, who were also passed through the observation depôts at Goalundo, proceeded up to Cachar and Sylhet in small batches not exceeding 20 in number, and, therefore, independently of any interference or supervision during transit; and many of these batches suffered from the heaviest mortality recorded in connection with transport during the year. These facts speak in favor of the advantages of proper supervision. It may be urged, however, that in the case of those coolies who were recruited by sirdars and went up independently, the smaller percentage of desertions, or of those "left behind" as unwilling, is at least strong evidence in support of the belief that this system of recruitment is more honestly conducted. In respect to those cases in which the sirdar recruits merely his own relatives or immediate friends, this conclusion is, I am inclined to think, a correct one; but on the other hand, it may be said that there are instances in which the sirdars employed have no more personal interest in the welfare of those whom they are paid to recruit than the contractors' hired recruiters, and it then becomes, with such sirdars, quite as much a matter of mere pecuniary profit as it is with hired recruiters; and as the sirdar, unlike the hired recruiter, accompanies his coolies for the entire journey, during which period they are not necessarily taken before any one authorised to enquire into their condition or wants, *sirdari* coolies travelling thus independently are not afforded the opportunities, which contractors' coolies are, of being undeceived or emancipated from their engagements at any stage of their journey from the place of recruitment to that of labor; while the excessive mortality that generally attends the transport of this class, the death-rate being the highest in comparison with that of contractors' coolies, points to the necessity of bringing

this class also under proper supervision, in order to ensure on the journey better arrangements for their care and comfort than the ignorance and false economy of garden sirdars, generally, are likely to provide when away from the immediate control of their employers.

Though the total number of coolies despatched through contractors and garden sirdars was greatly increased during the year under notice as compared with that of the previous year, the increase observable is due chiefly to the larger numbers supplied through contractors for Assam, as shown in the following table :—

		Years	
		1874-75.	1875-76.
Embarked for Assam	Contractors	6,442	11,238
	Sirdars ...	4,825	5,226
	Total ..	11,267	16,464
Embarked for Cachar and Sylhet ..	Contractors	4,039	2,798
	Sirdars	6,384	7,622
	Total ..	10,423	10,420
	GRAND TOTAL ..	21,690	26,884

The total number of souls accommodated in the Calcutta depôts during the year was 23,534, or 9,504 souls in excess of the number received into the depôts during the preceding year.

The districts whence the laborers were chiefly drawn are marginally noted in the order of their importance as sources of supply. The Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad, in his report on emigration from that district to Assam and Cachar for the year 1875-76, states that the total number of laborers recruited in the district was 401, of whom 202 were males and 199 females. "Nearly all the recruitment takes place at Rampore Haut." Of the total number engaged there 196 belonged to Moorshedabad, while 205 came from other districts, "being persons travelling in search of work along the main road on which Rampore Haut lies." I would here notice that as laborers for British and foreign colonies are collected chiefly in the North-Western Provinces, Behar, and Oudh, and those for Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet chiefly in the Chota Nagpore and Burdwan districts, the two fields of recruitment—the one for colonial, and the other for inland emigration—though they may be said to overlap to some extent, are sufficiently distinct at present to avoid the embarrassing competition which would probably arise if the chief sources of supply were not as distinctly apart as they happen to be. This fortunate circumstance is due to the fact that while on the one hand natives of the North-Western Provinces are on the whole preferred by the colonial agents, on the other, those of Chota Nagpore and the Sonthal Pergunnahs are preferred by the planters of Assam and Cachar. I understand, however, that the principal reason assigned by the colonial agents for preferring laborers from the North-Western Provinces is the fact that, although the natives of Chota Nagpore and its vicinity are highly prized by them as agricultural laborers, the mortality attending their transport, especially during the long sea-voyage, has hitherto proved so excessive as to discourage any further attempts at importing them *largely* into the colonies.

1.	Hazareebaugh.	Chota Nagpore
2.	Manbhoom	
3.	Lohardugga	
4.	Midnapore	Burdwan.
5	Bancoorah.	
6	Burdwan.	
7.	Beerbhoom	
8.	Sonthal Pergunnahs	
9.	Monghyr.	
10.	Gya.	
11.	Tirhoot.	
12	Bhagulpore	
13	Ghazeepore.	
14	Shahabad.	
15	Moorshedabad.	

The death-rate among coolies, contractors and *sirdari* taken collectively, during their temporary residence in the Calcutta depôts was 0·46 per cent. for the past year, as against 0·53 per cent. for the previous year 1874-75—showing a slight difference in favor of the period under review. The deaths in depôt occurred principally during the months of April, May, and March, the remaining nine months of the official year, June to February, having been comparatively free from cholera. As the Medical Inspector at Calcutta, extracts from whose report have been submitted above, has already explained the procedure followed by him in regard to the emigrants in depôts, it appears unnecessary here to do more than to subjoin the tables to which he refers, wherein the results of his medical examinations are shown for each month, and in respect to the coolies in each depôt, during the year 1875-76.

Contractors (*No.* 8.)

Months.	O. B. Andrews.	R. N. Bannerjee.	Bachoo Lall.	H. L. Mookerjee.	W. Durham.	R. Hendry.	D. N. Mitter.	J. K. Mahomed.	B. P. Mitter.	G. C. Dutt.	T. H. Bennerts.	Number admitted in the depôts, including the balance of last year.	Rejected. Finally rejected.	Rejected. Detained for care and treatment.	Rejected. Total.	Percentage of rejections.	Number discharged as unwilling.	Number absconded.	Mortality. Deaths from cholera.	Mortality. Percentage.	Mortality. Deaths from other causes.	Mortality. Percentage.	Mortality. Total number of deaths.	Mortality. Total percentage.	Average detention in depôt. Maximum.	Average detention in depôt. Minimum.	Average detention in depôt. Average.	Number passed as fit.	Number despatched from Calcutta to place of embarkation.	Total balance in the depôts at the close of the year.
1875.																														
April	563	59	69	250	...	385	23	162	60	627	306	2,446	31	53	84	3·43	14	70	4	0·16	3	0·12	7	0·28	23	4	13	2,271	...	...
May	221	11	32	220	...	117	...	163	5	284	222	1,255	25	49	74	5·89	14	61	4	0·31	...	...	4	0·31	23	8	15	1,163	...	...
June	216	...	77	219	...	154	20	188	15	375	174	1,341	56	35	91	6·78	15	61	...	...	1	0·07	1	0·07	23	6	17	1,155	...	...
July	147	...	126	176	...	79	34	111	34	445	150	1,312	27	59	86	6·55	30	57	...	...	1	0·07	1	0·07	23	6	15	1,060	...	...
August	161	...	132	150	...	146	37	135	14	271	117	1,163	31	62	93	7·99	34	97	...	...	1	0·08	1	0·08	23	6	15	923	...	...
September	99	...	68	129	41	95	36	64	22	245	196	1,015	39	32	71	6·99	22	106	...	...	1	0·09	1	0·09	23	5	15	805	...	...
October	181	24	68	113	42	101	27	64	27	268	176	1,091	23	39	62	5·68	21	56	...	...	1	0·09	1	0·09	21	7	19	861	...	...
November	189	135	127	127	24	98	37	79	25	167	183	1,150	40	36	76	6·60	22	122	...	...	3	0·26	3	0·26	21	2	14	886	...	...
December	138	62	88	116	19	74	1	64	17	178	124	881	42	19	61	6·92	26	101	...	...	2	0·22	2	0·22	17	5	16	691	...	...
1876.																														
January	270	442	77	230	46	99	16	75	22	298	232	1,827	19	13	32	1·75	41	61	...	...	1	0·05	1	0·05	23	4	14	1,692	...	...
February	206	206	143	209	44	217	20	96	21	343	142	1,719	63	28	95	5·53	15	71	...	...	14	0·81	14	0·81	22	6	17	1,532	...	...
March	228	271	142	206	62	201	39	145	38	302	207	1,840	30	86	116	6·30	23	85	6	0·37	...	...	6	0·37	23	5	14	1,610	...	...
Total	2,550	1,212	1,179	2,164	278	1,768	290	1,346	373	3,763	2,179	17,040	431	511	942	5·52	340	998	14	0·08	28	0·16	42	0·24	34	5	14	14,718	14,094	684

Sirdari (*No.* 9).

Months.	O. B. Andrews.	R. N. Bannerjee.	Bachoo Lall.	H. L. Mookerjee.	R. Hendry.	D. N. Mitter.	B. P. Mitter.	G. C. Dutt.	T. H Bennerts.	W. Durham.	J. K. Mahomed.	Total number admitted in the depôts, including the balance of last year.	Rejected. Finally rejected.	Rejected. Detained for care and treatment.	Rejected. Total.	Percentage of rejections.	Number discharged as unwilling.	Number absconded.	Mortality. Deaths from cholera.	Mortality. Percentage.	Mortality. Deaths from other causes.	Mortality. Percentage.	Mortality. Total number of deaths.	Mortality. Total percentage.	Average detention in depôt. Maximum.	Average detention in depôt. Minimum.	Average detention in depôt. Average.	Number passed as fit.	Number despatched from Calcutta to place of embarkation.	Total balance in the depôts at the close of the year.
1875.																														
April	10	...	...	...	78	...	...	107	665	...	...	860	4	4	8	1·	.....	11	4	0·5	4	0·5	8	1	23	7	15	775	...	...
May	...	...	30	...	45	...	...	28	344	...	...	447	3	5	8	1·98	.....	9	4	0·89	12	2·68	16	3·57	22	17	19	414	...	...
June	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	70	...	...	93	3	.....	3	3·15	.....	4	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	16	10	13	88	...	...
July	30	...	...	58	...	...	...	34	66	...	...	188	14	.....	14	7·44	.....	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	16	8	11	174	...	...
August	59	...	...	33	28	...	...	14	31	...	...	165	5	.....	5	3·03	5	2	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	16	9	13	153	...	...
September	9	...	...	...	55	...	...	150	36	...	...	250	1	2	3	1·2	.....	...	...	...	1	0·4	1	0·4	16	7	11	246	...	...
October	16	...	...	...	48	...	...	204	72	...	...	340	...	1	1	0·28	.....	3	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	20	7	13	336	...	...
November	20	...	...	...	117	...	...	245	165	...	...	547	3	4	7	1·27	.....	16	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	15	7	11	524	...	...
December	16	19	...	...	49	...	31	389	229	...	...	733	...	3	3	0·40	.....	1	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	15	6	10	729	...	...
1876.																														
January	143	27	...	87	200	...	...	399	153	...	...	1,009	...	1	1	0·90	.....	7	...	...	1	0·09	1	0·09	16	6	11	1,000	...	...
February	43	25	...	92	114	...	72	488	270	...	...	1,104	11	3	14	1·26	.....	...	...	...	2	0·18	2	0·18	14	7	10	1,088	...	...
March	13	50	...	53	55	76	67	194	308	...	...	816	29	2	31	3·79	.....	16	13	1·59	4	0·49	17	2·08	19	4	11	752	...	...
Total	359	121	30	323	814	76	170	2,252	2,349	...	...	6,494	73	25	98	1·50	5	69	21	0·32	24	0·36	45	0·69	17	8	12	6,277	6,295	882

I would here notice the uniform care with which Dr. Palmer has conducted his duties in connection not only with the examination of laborers, but also in regard to their general wellbeing while in the several depôts, where they were constantly visited by him regularly once a week, frequently oftener, and supervised so as to ensure attention to such sanitary precautions as have tended to promote their health and to prevent the extension of disease when it has declared itself in any of the depôts under his care.

10. *Transport of Emigrants.*—The modes of conveyance have continued the same as those of former years. The journey from the recruiting districts to Calcutta is performed by train from all places within convenient distance from a railway station. The stations at Raneegungo and Burdwan are, therefore, the chief points from which coolies for the labor districts are forwarded to this city. From here they continue their journey by train to the place of embarkation, either Goalundo or Kooshtea, and thence embark in steamers for Assam, and in country-boats for Cachar and Sylhet.

11. *The place of embarkation.*—Dr. Vincent Richards has continued throughout the year to hold the appointment of Medical Inspector of Emigrants and Embarkation Agent at Goalundo and Kooshtea. Embarkations were conducted at Goalundo for the greater part of the year; but from the 26th of August to the 4th of October 1875, the rise of the river, its strong currents, and the cutting away of its banks followed by inundation of the depôts at Goalundo, rendered it necessary, as a temporary measure, to embark the coolies from Kooshtea until the state of the river admitted of embarkation being resumed at Goalundo.

Depôts at Goalundo.—Dr. Richards reports that eleven contractors have established depôts at that place—"two in excess of last year;" and adds: "it is worthy of notice that six out of the eleven contractors had no mortality in their Goalundo depôts, although the number of coolies passed through their depôts amounted to no fewer than 6,245 souls."

Mortality at Goalundo.—All the deaths at Goalundo were due to cholera, and the death-rate of the total number of coolies passed through the Goalundo depôts during the year was only 0·55 per cent., as against 0·97 per cent. during 1874-75. On calculating the rate of mortality which attended each class separately, however, it is found that the percentage of deaths among contractors' coolies there amounted to 0·14, among *sirdari* coolies passed through contractors' depôts to 1·64, and among purely *sirdari* coolies proceeding independently, but brought under observation at that place, to 2·79. For information respecting the percentage of deaths last stated I am indebted to Dr. Richards, who reports that only 941 purely *sirdari* coolies travelling independently of contractors' depôts were passed through the observation depôts at Goalundo. Of this number, as already stated, 101 souls embarked without any mortality for Assam, and the balance, or 840 souls, among whom all the mortality noted by Dr. Richards occurred, embarked—some for Cachar and others for Sylhet. Looking to the facts that, in regard to class C., the Embarkation Agent was in a position to ascertain the deaths which occurred at Goalundo among only those 941 souls who were passed through the observation depôts there, and that the rate of mortality was found to be so high as 2·79 per cent., it appears very improbable that the total number of deaths and consequent death-rate ascribed to the remainder of this class (C), and calculated on the data furnished originally by garden sirdars who went up to Cachar and Sylhet in charge of the several batches grouped under this head (C), is even approximately correct. I am inclined to believe that many of those who were reported by the sirdars as "left behind" would, if all the truth were known about them, tend to raise the death-rate of class C much above that of the other two classes, A and B, of whom, on the whole, more reliable information is available.

Medical observation.—All batches exceeding 20 in number have been conveyed in licensed vessels, and therefore under rule 78 of the rules regulating the transport of emigrants to the labor districts, were brought under medical observation for a period of four days, either at Calcutta or Goalundo, prior to their embarkation, in order to insure as far as possible the shipment of none but those who were ascertained to be in good health at the time of

embarkation. That this observation rule, which came into force in January 1875, appears to have operated beneficially is evidenced by the results; for while the average percentage of mortality in the passage to Assam for the 15 months previous to its introduction was 3·22, that of the 15 months subsequent to its coming into force is 1·99. No doubt other causes, to be noticed presently, also tended to reduce the mortality, but the extension of this rule to all *sirdari* coolies about to be conveyed in licensed vessels must have helped, by enabling the Medical Inspector at the place of embarkation to detect and keep back cases of illness occurring among *sirdari* batches which might otherwise have embarked and died on the passage. Dr. Richards observes in regard to rule 78 that, owing no doubt to its more universal application, "the employers of laborers adopted to a greater extent the plan of forwarding them through the contractors' depôts—a system which is certainly calculated to afford the coolie a greater amount of comfort and good treatment, for which there was ample room in many cases. If the rule in question did nothing more than to ensure this, it would be sufficient justification for its adoption."

Detention.—He states that the average detention at Goalundo of those who had already been under observation in the Calcutta depôts, but had to be kept back on account of sickness, was two days and six hours; whereas the average detention of those who had not been under previous observation, and had to be detained on account of sickness, was five days and nine hours. The number of batches that were detained on account of cholera out of each of the three classes A., B., and C. is given below, and Dr. Richards remarks "that a far greater number of detentions occurred in the *sirdari* recruited coolies than in contractors'."

Batches.	Contractors.	Sirdari.		Total
		Through depôts.	Independently	
	A.	B.	C.	
Total number of	... 798	345	71	1,214
Number detained	... 15	23	22	60

Rejections.—Dr. Richards also reports that as Medical Inspector he rejected during the year, on the ground of physical unfitness for labor, 0·15 per cent. of the men, and 0·10 per cent. of the women, who arrived at Goalundo.

Proportion of the sexes, &c.—The following tables give the percentages of men, women, boys, girls, and infants embarked through contractors and garden sirdars respectively:—

Contractors.

Emigrants.	Assam.		Cachar.		Sylhet.		Total.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Men ...	5,343	47·54	1,313	49·71	57	36 30	6,713	47·82
Women ...	3,841	34·17	830	31·42	52	33 12	4,723	33·64
Boys	739	6 57	194	7 34	17	10 82	950	6 76
Girls	709	6 30	162	6 13	22	14 01	893	6 36
Infants	606	5 30	142	5 37	9	5 73	757	5·39
Total ...	11,238	100	2,641	100	157	100	14,036	100

Garden Sirdars.

Emigrants.	Assam.		Cachar.		Sylhet.		Total.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Men	2,002	38·30	2,851	39·78	91	40·80	4,944	39 26
Women	1,664	31 84	2,253	31·55	65	29 14	3,982	31 62
Boys	680	13 01	888	12 43	25	11 21	1,593	12 65
Girls	504	9 64	638	8·93	28	12 55	1,170	9 29
Infants ..	376	7 19	511	7 15	14	6·27	901	7 15
Total	5,226	100	7,141	100	223	100	12,590	100

It may be said that approximately about 45 per cent. of the laborers embarked for Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet were natives of Chota Nagpore and its neighbouring districts, and the remainder was almost entirely made up of laborers

from other parts of Bengal; the proportion of natives from the northern part of Bengal and its vicinity being usually largest in batches intended for Cachar, the climate of which place is believed to suit them better than that of Assam.

12. *The passage in steamers and boats.*—It is during this stage of the emigrants' journey, whether in steamers and their flats to Assam, or in country-boats to Cachar and Sylhet, that the heaviest mortality usually occurs; and it has therefore followed that most of the remedies suggested have had for their end the removal of defects in connection with the river passage. The chief particulars relating to the several batches of laborers forwarded during the year in steamers and their flats to Assam are given in the following table:—

Months	Names of Vessels	Name of Medical Officer in charge	Date of departure	Number of days on the voyage	Number of Emigrants under conveyance				Mortality amongst Emigrants during passage									
									Contractors.				Garden sirdars despatched through contractors					
									Number and percentage of deaths from cholera.		Number and percentage of deaths from other causes		Number and percentage of deaths from cholera		Number and percentage of deaths from other causes		Total percentage of deaths from all causes.	Vessels on which cholera occurred
					Contractors	Garden sirdars despatched through contractors.	Garden sirdars despatched independently of contractors.	Total	Total number	Percentage.	Total number	Percentage.	Total number.	Percentage.	Total number.	Percentage		
1875																		
April	Str Simla	Mr Gorman	6th April	15	221	243	...	463	2	90	2	·90	.	...	6	2 47	2·15	Cholera
"	" Chunar	K. C Soboodhicary	11th "	10	237	56	.	293	1	·42	...	.	.	.	.	.	·34	
"	" Burmah	Mr Creais	12th "	10	115	140	.	255	1	·88	.	.	4	2 85	1	71	2 37	
"	" Progress	" Romaine	20th "	19	276	198	.	474	8	2 89	..	...	10	5 05	3	1 51	4 43	Cholera.
"	" Madras	" Gantzer	20th "	14	252	7	..	259	.	...	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	
May	" Chunar	" Allnutt	3rd May	11	207	98	.	305	1	·48	..	.	...	..	3	3·06	1 31	
"	" Lahore	" Sinclair	11th "	16	110	55	.	165	1	·90	1	90	..	...	...	...	1 21	
"	" Burmah	" Rivers	17th "	10	238	15	.	253	.	.	.	.	...	..	.	...	.	
"	" Progress	" Creais	20th "	16	156	124	.	280	3	1 92	..	...	2	2 41	1	·80	2·5	Cholera.
"	" Agra	Dr Rahim	27th "	18	92	.	47	139	.	...	.	.	...	.	.	.	...	
"	" Oudh	K. C. Soboodhicary	27th "	14	129	142	.	271	..	...	.	.	...	..	..	..	.	
June	" Rajmehal	Mr. Romaine	3rd June	23	111	31	..	142	.	.	1	90	..	.	.	..	70	
"	" Madras	" Gorman	10th "	14	62	53	.	115	.	..	.	.	...	.	.	...	...	
"	" Patna	" Allnutt	17th "	22	100	8	..	108	.	..	..	..	...	..	.	...	.	
"	" Burmah	" Sinclair	21st "	12	179	45	.	224	2	1 11	...	.	..	...	...	..	·89	Cholera
"	" Chunar	" Gantzer	28th "	14	247	...	.	247	1	·40	1	·40	.	.	.	..	·80	
July	" Lahore	K C Soboodhicary	1st July	18	130	18	..	148	.	..	.	..	...	..	..	..	.	
"	" Mirzapore	Mr Creais	8th "	18	251	44	.	295	.	..	1	·39	.	...	..	.	·33	
"	" Progress	Dr Rahim	16th "	19	80	20	11	61	.	..	.	.	.	.	..	...	...	
"	" Oudh	None	16th "	14	50	.	.	50	.	..	.	..	...	..	...	..	..	
"	" Agra	Dr Jones	22nd "	18	246	55	.	301	.	..	.	..	.	.	1	1 81	·33	
"	" Madras	Mr Romaine	29th "	23	92	39	...	131	.	.	.	.	...	...	1	2 56	·77	
"	" Burmah	Nazaff Ally	30th "	16	80	35	.	115	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
August	" Simla	Mr Gorman	5th Aug	21	231	40	...	271	3	1 29	4	1 73	5	12·5	1	2 5	4 79	Cholera.
"	" Chunar	None	12th "	20	23	22	.	45	.	...	.	.	...	...	...	..	..	
"	" Lahore	Mr Sinclair	20th "	19	269	9	.	278	.	...	.	.	...	...	...	..	..	
"	" Mirzapore	K. C. Soboodhicary	26th "	17	118	71	.	189	..	.	.	..	...	.	.	...	...	
September	" Progress	Mr Talpade	3rd Sept.	20	208	.	.	208	.	.	.	.	..	..	...	.	...	
"	" Patna	" Romaine	9th "	17	198	57	.	255	.	.	.	.	.	.	..	...	...	
"	" Burmah	" Cooper	16th "	15	113	52	..	165	..	...	.	.	..	...	...	.	..	
"	" Agra	Dr Jones	16th "	17	125	35	.	160	.	...	..	...	.	.	...	...	...	
"	" Assam	Dr Rahim	23rd "	19	100	19	.	179	.	.	.	.	...	...	...	...	.	
"	" Simla	Nazaff Ally	30th "	19	117	38	...	155	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
October	" Nopal	Mr Creais	3rd Oct	15	116	93	.	209	.	.	1	·86	...	...	.	...	·47	
"	" Mirzapore	" Sinclair	28th "	16	138	21	.	159	.	.	.	.	...	..	.	.	.	
"	" Oudh	" Allnutt	25th "	16	158	18	.	176	.	.	1	·63	...	..	.	..	·56	
"	" Lahore	Dr Jones	28th "	14	263	.	.	263	.	.	1	·38	...	..	...	...	·38	
November	" Rajmehal	Mr Romaine	5th Nov	15	86	123	10	219	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
"	" Burmah	K C Soboodhicary	6th "	15	127	53	.	180	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
"	" Patna	Mr Talpade	12th "	18	196	138	.	334	12	6 12	..	...	1	·72	1	72	4 19	Cholera
"	" Progress	" Sinclair	16th "	22	248	89	..	337	17	68	.	...	5	5 61	..	.	6 52	Do
"	" Agra	" Creais	26th "	21	130	60	.	190	1	76	..	...	1	1 66	1	1 66	1 57	
"	" Nopal	None	30th "	16	26	3	.	29	.	.	..	...	.	.	.	.	.	
December	" Simla	Dr Rahim	2nd Dec	18	174	191	10	375	2	1 15	.	.	3	1 57	1	·52	1 64	Cholera
"	" Assam	Mr Gorman	9th "	16	134	98	23	255	4	2 98	3	2 23	1	1 02	1	1 02	3 87	Do
"	" Chunar	" Gantzer	17th "	20	79	183	.	262	.	.	.	.	...	...	1	·54	·38	
"	" Mirzapore	" Allnutt	23rd "	17	257	224	.	481	.	.	.	..	16	7 14	2	·89	3·74	Cholera.
1876																		
January	" Rajmehal	Dr Jones	6th Jan	16	322	203	..	525	.	...	..	...	.	.	1	·49	·19	
"	" Burmah	None	5th "	15	36	..	..	36	.	.	.	..	.	.	.	.	.	
"	" Patna	Nazaff Ally	13th "	19	300	70	.	409	..	..	2	·50	.	.	4	5 71	1 27	
"	" Chunar	K C Soboodhicary	21st "	14	116	6	...	122	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
"	" Bengal	Mr Romaine	22nd "	14	113	67	.	180	..	.	...	..	..	..	.	.	.	
"	" Progress	" Talpade	27th "	16	297	119	.	408	.	.	1	·34	.	.	.	.	·24	
February	" Madras	" Creais	5th Feb	20	232	93	.	325	19	8 18	.	.	13	14 30	..	..	9 84	Cholera.
"	" Nopal	" Sinclair	6th "	20	124	186	.	310	4	3 22	2	1 61	2	1 07	3	1 61	3 54	Do
"	" Simla	Dr Rahim	12th "	17	237	139	.	376	1	·42	..	.	2	1 43	1	·71	1 06	Do
"	" Assam	Mr Gantzer	18th "	16	203	108	.	311	4	1·97	...	...	5	4 62	..	.	2 89	Do
"	" Oudh	" Gorman	18th "	17	152	175	.	327	3	1 38	...	.	5	2 85	2	1 14	2 75	Do
"	" Burmah	Nazaff Ally	26th "	12	108	82	.	190	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2 53	1 05	
"	" Mirzapore	Mr Allnutt	26th "	14	269	204	.	473	.	.	1	·37	1	·49	3	1 47	1 05	
March	" Lahore	Dr Jones	2nd March	16	339	108	.	447	5	1 47	2	·58	1	·22	4	1 70	3 68	Cholera
"	" Bengal	Mr. Romaine	9th "	11	99	150	.	249	2	2 02	3	3 03	...	.	.	...	2 00	
"	" Rajmehal	K C Soboodhicary	13th "	15	228	130	.	358	1	·43	7	3·07	2	1 53	.	.	2·79	Cholera
"	" Patna	Mr Talpade	16th "	19	252	78	.	330	4	1·58	5	1 98	1	1 28	1	1 28	3 33	Do
"	" Progress	" Sinclair	23rd "	18	269	145	.	414	6	2 23	4	1 48	2	1 37	2	1 37	3 38	Do
					11,238	5,193	101	16,464	107	95	46	·38	83	1 61	47	91	1 70	

It is gratifying to notice that the results of the passage in steamers during the past year 1875-76 bear favorable comparison with those of the previous year. For example:—

		1874-75.	1875-76.
Total number of trips		43	65
Ditto ditto ditto without cholera		26	39
Ditto ditto souls conveyed		11,034	16,464
		Days. Hours.	Days. Hours.
Average length of passage by the vessels of the	I. G. S. N. Co.	18 16	16 18
	R. S. N. Co.	20 8	14 17
Average percentage of deaths from all causes		... 3·28	... 1·70

So that, although 5,430 souls were embarked during the past year in excess of the number embarked during the previous year, they were conveyed to their destination more speedily, and with less mortality on the passage. As several co-existent causes have been in operation, it is impossible, under the circumstances, to determine the precise share which each may have had in bringing about the results; but those which appear to have had a prominent part in occasioning the improvement noticed are the provision of additional warm clothing and shelter for the emigrants against the depressing effects of cold winds on the passage, the reduction in the duration of the passage, and the extension of the four days' observation rule to all *sirdari* coolies not forwarded through the licensed depôts.

As usual, emigration was most active during the months of April, May, and December 1875, and January, February, and March 1876. Unfortunately these are also the months in which cholera is usually most prevalent in the districts through which the laborers have to pass in travelling to their destination; and whether they proceed to Assam, Cachar, or Sylhet during these months, the risk is equally unavoidable.

With reference to the observation offered in my report of the previous year, advocating a reduction in the number of emigrants to be conveyed at the same time, though it must be admitted that exceptional cases occur in which steamers carrying larger numbers complete the passage with a smaller percentage of mortality than others carrying smaller numbers, yet, looking to the transport results of the year as shown in the subjoined table, the death-rate (0·42 per cent.) among the total number of coolies carried in vessels conveying less than 250 bears extremely favorable comparison with that (2·13 per cent.) among the total number carried on vessels conveying more than 250, and seems to point to the probability of at least some advantage attending the reduction of the present limit of 500.

Months.	Number exceeding 250.								Number not exceeding 250.							
			Emigrants.			Mortality.					Emigrants.			Mortality.		
	Number of vessels.	Number of days in passage.	Total number.	Percentage of contractors.	Percentage of sirdari.	Total percentage.	Percentage of deaths among contractors' coolies.	Percentage of deaths among sirdari coolies.	Number of vessels.	Number of days in passage.	Total number.	Percentage of contractors.	Percentage of sirdari.	Total percentage.	Percentage of deaths among contractors' coolies.	Percentage of deaths among sirdari coolies.
1875.																
April ...	1	15	463	47·73	52·26	2·15	1·80	2·47								
" ...	1	10	223	80·88	19·11	0·34	0·42	.....								
" ...	1	16	253	44·66	55·33	2·37	0·88	3·57								
" ...	1	19	474	58·22	41·77	4·43	2·89	6·56								
" ...	1	14	259	97·29	2·70	.....	.....	.....					None.			
Total ...	5	..	1,742	63·08	36·91	2·18	1·27	3·73								
May ...	1	11	305	67·86	32·13	1·31	0·48	3·06	1	16	165	66·66	33·33	1·21	1·81	.....
" ...	1	18	248	55·71	44·28	2·5	1·92	3·22	1	10	243	93·82	6·17	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	14	271	47·60	52·39	...	.....	.....	1	18	139	66·18	33·81	.....	.....	.....
Total ..	3		836	57·47	42·52	1·28	0·81	1·92	3	..	547	78·61	21·38	0·36	0·46	.....
June ...	...	.	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	23	142	78·16	21·83	0·70	0·90	.....
									1	14	115	53·01	46·21	.....	.....	.....
									1	22	108	92·59	7·40	.....	.....	.....
					None.				1	13	224	79·91	20·08	0·89	1·11	.....
									1	14	247	100	.....	0·80	0·80	.....
Total ...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	...	836	81·61	16·38	0·59	0·71	.....
July ..	1	18	295	85·08	14·91	0·33	0·39	.....	1	18	148	87·83	12·16	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	18	301	81·72	18·27	0·33	.....	1·81	1	19	61	49·18	50·81	.....	.....	.....
									1	14	50	100	.....	.....	.....	.....
									1	23	131	70·22	29·77	0·77	.....	2·56
									1	15	115	71·30	30·43	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	2	...	596	83·39	16·61	0·33	0·20	1·01	5	...	505	75·04	24·35	0·19	.....	0·81
August ...	1	21	271	85·23	14·76	4·79	3·03	·15	1	20	45	51·11	48·88	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	19	378	97·61	12·90	.....	.....	.....	1	17	189	62·43	37·56	.....	.....	.....
Total ..	2	...	649	92·44	7·55	2·00	1·16	12·24	2	...	234	60·25	39·74	.....	.....	.....
September ..	1	20	268	100·	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	15	165	68·48	31·51	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	17	256	77·64	22·35	.....	.....	.....	1	17	160	78·12	21·87	.....	.....	.....
									1	19	179	89·38	10·61	.....	.....	.....
									1	19	155	75·48	24·51	.....	.....	.....
Total ..	2	...	624	89·10	10·89	.....	.....	.....	4	...	659	78·14	21·69	.....	.....	.....
October .	1	13	283	100·	.....	0·38	0·38	.....	1	15	209	55·50	44·49	0·47	0·86	.....
									1	16	159	86·79	13·20	.....	.....	.....
									1	16	176	89·77	10·22	0·56	0·63	.....
Total .	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	...	544	75·73	24·26	0·36	0·48	.....
November .	1	18	334	58·68	41·31	4·19	6·12	1·45	1	15	219	39·26	60·73	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	22	337	75·59	20·40	6·52	0·88	5·61	1	15	180	70·55	29·44	.....	.....	.....
									1	21	190	68·42	31·57	1·57	0·76	3·33
									1	16	29	89·65	10·34	.....	.....	.....
Total ..	2		671	66·16	33·83	5·36	6·53	3·08	4	..	618	59·70	40·29	0·48	0·27	0·80
December ...	1	18	375	46·4	53·6	1·64	1·15	1·99								
" ...	1	16	255	52·54	47·45	3·87	5·22	1·65								
" ..	1	20	262	30·15	69·84	.. ...	.....	0·54								
" ...	1	17	481	53·43	46·56	.....	.....	8·03								
Total ...	4	...	1,373	46·90	53·09	2·47	1·39	3·42					None.			
1876.																
January ..	1	16	525	61·33	38·66	.....	.....	...	1	15	36	100	.....	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	19	469	83·36	14·92	1·27	0·50	0·49	1	14	122	95·08	4·91	.....	.....	.....
" ...	1	15	406	70·68	29·31	0·24	0·54	5·71	1	14	180	62·77	37·22	.....	.....	.....
Total .	3	...	1,400	72·	28·	0·57	0·29	1·27	3	...	338	78·40	21·59	.....	.....	.....
February ...	1	20	325	71·38	28·61	9·84	8·18	14·30	1	13	190	56·84	43·15	1·05	.....	2·45
" ...	1	20	310	39·99	59·99	3·54	4·83	2·68								
" ...	1	17	376	63·03	36·96	1·06	0·42	2·15								
"	1	16	311	65·27	34·72	2·89	1·97	4·62								
" ...	1	17	327	46·48	53·51	2·75	1·38	4·								
" ...	1	14	473	56·87	43·12	1·05	0·37	1·06								
Total ...	6	...	2,122	57·35	42·64	3·29	2·71	5·04								
March	1	16	447	75·83	24·16	3·68	2·06	4·62	1	11	249	39·75	60·24	2·00	5·05	.....
" .	1	15	358	63·68	36·31	2·79	3·50	1·53								
" ...	1	19	336	76·26	23·63	3·33	3·57	2·56								
" ...	1	18	414	64·92	35·02	3·38	3·71	2·75								
Total	4	...	1,549	70·23	29·76	3·03	3·12	2·81	.	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand total	34	...	11,744	66·37	33·43	2·13	1·73	3·18	31	...	4,720	72·45	27·54	0·42	0·33	0·38

The number of emigrants—contractors and sirdari—embarked by contractors in country-boats for Cachar and Sylhet, and the mortality which occurred on the passage, is given in the following table:—

Districts.	Number embarked.			Mortality on passage.	
	Contractors.	Sirdari.	Total.	Number.	Percentage.
Cachar	2,641	132	2,773	16	0·57
Sylhet	157	...	157	4	2 54

Here also it is satisfactory to find that the death-rate among coolies embarked by contractors for Cachar and Sylhet is less than that of the year 1874-75. In respect to small *sirdari* batches which proceeded to Cachar and Sylhet independently of contractors' depôts (class C), I regret there are no means of ascertaining the death-rate which attended their passage in boats, as the returns relating to them show merely the total mortality for the entire journey from the recruiting districts, without specifying the stages at which the deaths occurred.

13. With reference to the duties of the Embarkation Agent and Medical Inspector at Goalundo, Dr. Richards observes that, "notwithstanding the establishment of Dhubri as an embarkation station, the work has considerably increased during the year under review, as the following table shows":—

	1874-75.	1875-76.
Number of batches despatched	659	1,214
Ditto of steamers surveyed and despatched	41	65
Ditto of country-boats ditto ditto	296	216
Ditto of letters, &c., issued	418	719

Before concluding my remarks on transport through Goalundo, I cannot but bear testimony to the strenuous and painstaking exertions throughout the year of Dr. Richards, the Medical Inspector and Embarkation Agent, to secure due attention to the requirements of the law and orders of Government bearing on transport arrangements.

14. *Dhubri.*—I am indebted to Mr. Campbell, the Superintendent of Emigration and Embarkation Agent at Dhubri, for the following particulars regarding the emigration of laborers through that place to Assam. Of the total number (2,516 souls) registered for transmission through Dhubri, 14 absconded on the way, eight were left behind, and 50, or 1·98 per cent., died; so that 2,444 arrived at Dhubri. Mr. Campbell observes that "the statistics of mortality during the period of his report (from 1st May 1875 to end of June 1876) among the emigrants while in transit from the recruiting districts to Dhubri are not so favorable as they were last year. Outbreaks of cholera occurred among some of the batches near Maldah and Dinagepore during the latter part of March and the early part of April." Mr. Campbell thinks that the losses were much exaggerated, and that some emigrants who absconded were returned as having died from cholera; but he "had no means of testing the correctness of the statements made in this respect." In view, however, of the extraordinary predisposition to cholera for which this class of coolies is remarkable, I am inclined to believe that all the deaths reported actually occurred.

At Dhubri two absconded, two were rejected, three detained for treatment, seven died, and 2,430 were embarked.

The mortality during their temporary detention in the depôts at Dhubri was comparatively trifling; and Mr. Campbell states that their health while there was satisfactory.

He reports that besides Mr. Shaw, Finlayson & Co., and the Assam Company, the licensed contractors, Messrs. Hendry and Bennertz and Baboo Govind Chunder Dutt, had also established depôts at that place as agents for forwarding *sirdari* coolies.

Of the 2,430 souls who embarked at Dhubri, 30, or 1·23 per cent., died on the passage. Considering that the duration of the passage from Dhubri to Assam is less than that from Goalundo, the death-rate is not low; though if it can be clearly established by subsequent experience that the total mortality during the entire journey from the place of recruitment to that of labor

is reduced by the adoption of the Dhubri route, it will indeed be a satisfactory feature in embarkation from that place; but, in view of the fact that coolies travelling by that route are not exempt from outbreaks of cholera, and in the absence of wider experience, it is still impossible to arrive at any very decided opinion as to the probable superiority or otherwise of Dhubri as a place of embarkation.

The accompanying tables C and D give detailed information regarding the numbers recruited and despatched for each month of the period under review, and it will be noticed that the largest numbers were forwarded during the months of January, February, and March.

Mr. Campbell states, moreover, that within the period included in his report (dates not given), besides the emigrants embarked, some batches of *sirdari* coolies were marched to Upper Assam *vid* Dhubri. They were recruited exclusively by the Joyhing Tea Company. Properly cared for while at Dhubri, they commenced their journey with a sufficiency of food and clothes, and with money to buy food on the journey. The subjoined statement gives some details respecting them:—

Emigrants	Male	...	161
	Female	...	35
Dependents—			
Adults	Male	...	.....
	Female	...	2
Children	Male	...	16
	Female	...	4
Infants	Male	...	3
	Female	...	4
	Total	...	225

No information is given respecting the mortality (if any) and other particulars in connection with these batches, and therefore I regret my inability to submit any comparison which the possession of such facts may have enabled one to draw between that mode of transport and the system ordinarily adopted; but in the *Assam Gazette* of the 18th November 1876, Part III, it will be seen from the resolution on emigration operations at Dhubri, paragraph 3, that the Chief Commissioner has received a copy of the diary kept by the assistant who was in charge of the emigrants, and "the plan adopted by Mr. Menzies Smith of marching emigrants the whole way from the recruiting districts to Upper Assam appears to have been a decided success."

15. *The Labor Transport Fund.*—The accompanying statement E of the condition of the Labor Transport Fund at the close of the year under report has been furnished by the Office of the Accountant-General, and it will be noticed that the surplus of income over expenditure is shown to be Rs. 70,630. If to this sum be added Rs. 57,453-2-7, the surplus receipts up to the preceding year, the actual surplus at credit of the fund at the close of the past year is no less a sum than Rs. 1,28,083-2-7. Looking, however, to the records of this department, and to such information on this point as I have been able to collect through the kind assistance of the officers of the several recruiting and labor districts, I cannot but conclude that the above figures are unreliable; and, though unavoidably not in a position to question *in detail* the accuracy of the figures furnished by the account department, there is sufficient evidence to satisfy me that the fund at the close of 1875-76 was solvent by upwards of a lakh and a half of rupees, and this although the whole of the rates leviable under the Act on employers of labor in the labor-districts do not appear to have been realized during the year.

16. In conclusion, while regretting the unavoidable delay in the submission of this report, I would explain briefly the chief causes which have led to it. In some measure the delay has been occasioned by the efforts made to render this report fuller than those of former years; though, had I not been exposed during its preparation to constant interruption from outdoor and other current duties which could not be postponed, much more might have been done not only to compress and improve it, but to hasten its submission. It may, however, be reasonably supposed that the increase to the strength of this Office

establishment ought to have afforded, besides other advantages, facilities for disposing of such work more rapidly; and the question arises why, in the present instance, it did not do so. I would therefore explain that much time unavoidably elapsed before the applied-for increase to this Office establishment could be sanctioned, and as the work of the Office continued during that interval to increase very rapidly, arrears of work increased very rapidly also; so that when additional help ultimately came, it was immediately and entirely employed not only in clearing off old arrears and preventing the accumulation of fresh ones, but in improving and extending the usefulness of this department, by enabling it to detect and remedy more efficiently than before numerous irregularities in connection with the conduct of those whose operations it is required to supervise and control. In short, since January last this Office has been passing through a stage of transition, in which the arrears of the past, the pressing necessities of the present, and the requirements of the future have demanded unusual attention. When these circumstances are considered in connection with the fact noticed in this report, that the work of the Inland Emigration Department had materially increased during the period under review, I would respectfully submit that, although the heaviest arrears have been worked off and many improvements initiated, even that which has been actually effected will now require time as an essential condition before all its beneficial results can fully appear.

A.

Statement showing the number of Emigrants embarked at Goalundo through Contractors, under Act VII (B.C.) of 1873, for the Districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet during the year 1875-76.

Assam.

Months.	Number of Emigrants Embarked.											Particulars of Passage.								Number landed.
	Emigrants.			Dependents.						Percentage of females to males.	Mode of transit.	Absconded.	Mortality.							
													Cholera.		Other diseases.		Total.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Grand total.				Total number.	Percentage.	Total number.	Percentage.	From all causes.	Percentage.		
1875.																				
April	503	373	876	3	12	84	67	59	1,099	54·27	...	2	12	1·09	2	0·18	14	1·27	1,083
May	404	315	719	1	7	58	60	77	922	77·97	...	...	5	0·54	1	0·10	6	0·65	916
June	308	265	573	1	...	37	47	41	699	86·03	...	1	3	0·42	2	0·28	5	0·71	693
July	373	318	691	2	3	71	68	44	879	85·25	.	1	...	..	1	0·11	1	0·11	877
August	309	286	595	...	2	44	54	46	741	92·55	...	1	3	0·40	4	0·53	7	0·94	733
September	469	342	811	6	3	58	64	40	981	72·92	...	2	...	...	...	..	...	.....	979
October	339	252	591	...	2	28	25	29	675	74·33	...	2	..	...	3	0·44	3	0·44	670
November ...	401	291	692	..	2	47	39	33	813	72·56	...	...	30	3·69	...		30	3·69	783
December . .	327	210	537	3	4	43	32	25	644	64·22	...	1	6	0·93	3	0·46	9	1·39	634
1876.																				
January	618	386	1,004	10	16	103	77	63	1,273	62·45	...	...	...	...	3	0·23	3	0·23	1,270
February	642	386	1,028	19	15	91	99	73	1,325	60·12	...	2	30	2·26	3	0·22	33	2·49	1,290
March	596	339	935	9	14	75	87	67	1,187	56·87	...	...	18	1·51	21	1·76	39	3·28	1,148
Total	5,289	3,763	9,052	54	78	739	709	606	11,238	71·14	...	12	107	0·95	43	0·38	150	1·33	11,076

Cachar.

1875.																			
April	163	77	240	...	...	12	13	3	273	47·23	...	12	...	...	1	0·36	1	0·36	260
May	259	143	402	4	2	37	45	27	517	55·21	...	2	...	...	4	0·77	4	0·77	511
June	174	118	292	2	2	20	18	17	351	67·81	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	.....	344
July	188	157	345	2	3	38	26	21	435	83·51	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	... ..	434
August	55	39	94	...	1	10	8	12	125	70·90	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	. ....	125
September	42	45	87	...	1	16	10	5	119	107·14	...	...	1	0·84	...	...	1	0·84	118
October	50	49	99	...	...	9	8	6	122	98	...	...	...	...	2	1·63	2	1·63	120
November	53	35	88	2	3	10	6	11	120	66·22	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	.. .	115
December	32	23	55	2	1	4	1	5	68	71·87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	68
1876.																			
January	24	16	42	...	1	13	3	2	61	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	61
February ...	72	33	105	...	...	8	13	13	139	45·83	...	1	4	2·87	...	...	4	2·87	134
March	188	75	263	1	4	17	11	15	311	34·67	...	2	4	1·28	...	...	4	1·28	305
Total ...	1,300	812	2,112	13	18	194	162	142	2,641	62·46	...	30	9	0·34	7	0·26	16	0·60	2,595

Sylhet.

1875.																			
April	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	... ..
May	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
June	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
July	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
August ...	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
September	.. ...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
October	.....	. ..	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
November ...	.....	.. ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
December ...	11	2	13	...	...	...	...	...	13	18·18	. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	13
1876.																			
January	23	15	38	...	...	4	7	6	55	65·21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	55
February	16	31	47	5	...	12	11	3	78	193·75	...	1	4	5·12	...	...	4	5·12	73
March	2	4	6	..	...	1	4	...	11	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	11
Total ...	52	52	104	5	...	17	22	9	157	100	...	1	4	2·54	...	...	4	2·54	152

ABSTRACT showing the number of Emigrants recruited by Contractors and embarked at Goalundo, under Act VII (B.C.) of 1873, for the Districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet during the year 1875-76.

Districts	Number of Emigrants Embarked.									Mode of transit.	Particulars of Passage.						Number landed.
	Emigrants.			Dependents.								Mortality.					
												Cholera.		Other diseases.		Total.	
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Total.	Percentage of females to males.		Absconded.	Total number.	Percentage.	Total number.	Percentage.	From all causes.	Percentage.	
Assam	5,289	3,763	9,052	54	78	739	709	606	11,238	71·14	..	13	107	0·95	43	0·38	150	1·33	11,076
Cachar	1,300	812	2,112	13	18	194	162	142	2,641	62·46	..	30	9	0·34	7	0·26	16	0·60	2,595
Sylhet	52	52	104	5	..	17	22	9	157	100	..	1	4	2·54	.	.	4	2·54	152
Total	6,641	4,627	11,268	72	96	950	893	797	11,036	69·67	..	43	120	0·85	50	0·35	170	1·21	13,823

B.

Statement showing the number of Emigrants recruited by Garden Sirdars for the Districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet during the year 1875-76.

Assam.

Months	Number embarked: Emigrants: Men.	Women.	Total.	Dependents: Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Grand total.	Percentage of females to males.	Mode of transit.	Particulars of passage: Absconded.	Mortality: Cholera: Total number.	Percentage.	Other diseases: Total number.	Percentage.	Total: From all causes.	Percentage.	Number landed.
1875.																			
April	233	203	436	2	6	91	60	46	643	87·12	...	...	14	3·18	10	1·55	24	3·73	619
May	180	137	317	2	3	78	45	36	481	98·12	..	...	3	0 62	4	0 83	7	1·45	474
June	52	40	92	2	...	19	14	10	137	76·92	...	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	137
July	84	85	161	2	2	25	14	12	222	101·19	...	..	...		2	0·90	2	0·90	220
August	48	51	99	.	2	14	19	8	142	106·25	...	...	5	3·52	1	0 70	6	4 22	136
September	77	57	134	...	3	26	19	19	201	74 02	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	. ..	201
October	62	35	97		1	15	9	10	132	56·45	...	...	...	.	...	..	..	... .	132
November	181	144	325		4	68	40	30	476	79·55	...	...	7	1·47	2	0 42	9	1·80	467
December	290	213	503	5	12	89	60	51	729	73·44	...	...	20	2 74	5	0·08	25	3·42	704
1876.																			
January	164	142	306	4	2	67	43	38	465	86·58	...	...	...		5	1·07	5	1·07	460
February	376	292	668	10	22	120	98	69	987	77·65	...	1	28	2·84	11	1·11	39	3 95	947
March	244	183	426	4	4	70	60	47	611	74 59	...	3	6	0·98	7	1·14	13	2·12	596
Total	1,971	1,601	3,572	31	63	680	504	376	5,226	81·23	..	3	83	1·59	47	0·89	130	2 48	5,093

Cachar.

Months.	Number registered: Emigrants: Men.	Women.	Total.	Dependents: Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Grand total.	Percentage of females to males.	Mode of transit.	Particulars of journey: Absconded.	Mortality: Cholera: Total number.	Percentage.	Other diseases: Total number.	Percentage.	Total: From all causes.	Percentage.	Number landed.
1875.																			
April	211	180	391	...	...	59	53	54	557	85·30	...	...	21	5·77	3	0·53	24	4 30	533
May	344	284	628	...	...	113	98	66	905	82 55	...	...	2	0·22	3	0·33	5	0·55	900
June	171	138	309	...	...	68	36	26	439	80 70	...	..	...	...	4	0 91	4	0 91	435
July	164	83	187	...	...	41	15	13	256	79·81	...	...	.		1	0·39	1	0 39	255
August	203	131	334	...	...	57	43	20	444	59·81	...	...	1	0·22	5	1·12	6	1 35	438
September	195	161	356	...	...	40	26	20	451	82·56	...		...		...	.			451
October	130	95	225	...	...	32	31	22	310	73 07	...	..	2	0·64	11	3·54	13	4·19	297
November	195	155	350	...	...	40	37	34	470	79 48	...	...	1	0 21	2	0·42	3	0 63	467
December	179	139	318	...	...	41	26	41	426	77·65	...	...	6	1 40	2	0·46	8	1·87	418
1876.																			
January	368	289	657	...	...	129	86	70	942	78·53	...	...	25	2 65	17	1·80	42	4·45	900
February	443	390	833	...	...	165	119	113	1,230	88 03	..	...	58	4·71	5	0 40	63	5·12	1,167
March	372	301	673	...		116	96	74	959	80 91	...	.	73	7·61	6	0·62	79	8·23	880
Total	2,915	2,336	5,251	...	...	919	666	553	7,389	80·13	..	...	189	2·55	59	0·79	248	3 35	7,141

Sylhet.

1875.																			
April	.....	.....	..	...	...	.	...	.	..	.....	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	.....	... .
May	....	.. .	.... .	...	...	...	...	...	.	. ...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	.....	... .
June	.. ...	. ....	.. .	...	.	.	...	...	.....	.....	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...
July	... ..	.....	... .	...	...	...	...	...	... ..	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	... .
August	.....	... ..	... .	..	..	..	...	...	.....	.....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	.....	... .
September	.....	...	....	..	.	.		...		.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.. ..	..
October	.....	.....	.	...	...	...	...	. .		... ...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	
November	24	11	35	...	...	4	6	1	46	45 83	...	..	...		3	6·52	3	6·52	43
December	25	24	49		...	11	9	8	77	96	...	..	1	1·29	...	...	1	1·29	76
1876.																			
January	7	9	16	...	...	2	3	2	23	128·57	.	...	4	17·39	...	...	4	17·39	19
February	27	6	33	..	...	...	2		35	22 22	...	..	1	2 85	...	...	1	2·85	34
March	15	17	32	..	...	8	8	4	52	113·33	..	...	1	1 92	...	..	1	1 92	51
Total	98	67	165	...	...	25	28	15	233	68·36	...	...	7	3·00	3	1·28	10	4 29	223

ABSTRACT showing the number of Emigrants recruited by Garden Sirdars for the Districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet during the year 1875-76.

Districts.	NUMBER RECRUITED BY GARDEN SIRDARS.												PARTICULARS OF PASSAGE.								
	Emigrants.			Dependents.										Mortality.							
														Cholera.		Other diseases.		Total.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Grand total.	Percentage of females to males.	Mode of transit.		Absconded.	Total number.	Percentage.	Total number.	Percentage.	From all causes.	Percentage.	Number landed.	
Assam	1,971	1,661	3,572	31	63	680	504	376	5,226	81·22	...		3	83	1·59	47	0·89	130	2·48	5,093	
Cachar	2,915	2,336	5,251	...	...	919	666	553	7,389	80·13	...		...	189	2·55	59	0·79	248	3·35	7,141	
Sylhet	98	67	165	...	...	25	28	15	233	68·36	...		...	7	3·00	3	1·28	10	4·29	223	
Grand Total ...	4,984	4,004	8,988	31	63	1,624	1,198	944	12,848	80·33	...		3	279	2·17	109	0·84	388	3·01	12,457	

C.

Return giving particulars regarding Emigrants and Dependents transmitted through Dhubri.

Months.	Number registered.	Number born on the journey.	Left behind.		Absconded.		Died.		Number of Emigrants arrived.										Result of Medical Inspection, First Examination after arrival at Dhubri.				Number released.		Absconded.		Died.		Detained.		Number despatched.
									Emigrants.			Dependents.							Passed.		Rejected.											
												Adults.		Children.		Infants.					For care and treatment.											
			Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Grand total.	Total to labor.	Total to accompany.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	
1875.																															
April	172	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	61	131	...	...	18	12	5	6	172	131	41	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
May ...	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	21	40	...	1	6	6	1	...	54	40	14	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	54	...	...	...	1	1·85	3	5·55	22	16	38	2	1	6	1	1	1	50	38	12	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
August ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
November ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December ...	133	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	45	108	...	...	9	10	3	3	133	108	25	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
1876.																															
January ...	542	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	232	170	402	11	3	62	33	18	13	542	402	140	...	.....	...	...	1	0·18	3	0·55	...	...	538
February ...	376	...	3	0·79	...	...	1	0·26	146	107	253	15	7	40	31	14	12	372	254	118	...	.....	...	...	1	0·26	1	0·26	...	...	370
March ...	1,185	...	5	0·42	13	1·09	46	3·88	443	324	767	5	19	127	100	48	55	1,121	765	356	2	0·17	...	...	...	...	3	0·26	3	0·26	1,113
Total ...	2,516	...	8	0·31	14	0·56	50	1·98	995	744	1,739	33	31	268	193	90	90	2,444	1,738	706	2	0·08	...	...	2	0·81	7	0·28	3	0·12	2,430

D.

Statement showing particulars regarding Emigrants, &c., embarked at Dhubri, and the Mortality during the Passage.

Months.	Names of Vessels.	Name of Medical Officer.	Date of departure.	Total number of emigrants and dependents under conveyance.	Mortality amongst emigrants during the passage. Number and percentage of deaths from cholera.		Number and percentage of deaths from other causes.		Total percentage of deaths from all causes.	Vessels in which cholera occurred.
1875.			1875.							
April	Str. Rajmehal	Mr. Sinclair	3rd April	65	2	3·07	.....	.....	3·07	Cholera.
„	„ Simla	„ J H Gorman	10th „	107	6	5·60	.....	.....	5·60	Do.
May	„ Lahore	„ Sinclair	17th May	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Progress	„ Cresia	24th „	27	7	25·90	.....	.....	25·90	Do.
June	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
July	„ Progress	„ Raheem	22nd July	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
August	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
September	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
October	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
November	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
December	„ Agra	„ Cresia	1st December	23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Simla	„ Raheem	8th „	47	.....	.....	1	2·13	2·13	
„	„ Assam	„ Gorman	14th „	49	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Mirzapore	„ Allnutt	27th „	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1876.			1876.							
January	Str. Lahore	Mr. Gantzer	6th January	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Rajmehal	„ Jones	11th „	97	1	1·03	.....	.....	1·03	Do.
„	„ Burmah	*Nil*	13th „	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Patna	Meer Nazaff Ally	19th „	38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Chunar	Mr Sobodhicary	25th „	183	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Progress	„ Talpade	31st „	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
February	„ Nopaul	„ Sinclair	13th February	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Simla	„ Rahim	17th „	213	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Oudh	„ Gorman	22nd „	180	9	5·47	.....	.....	5·47	Do.
March	„ Mirzapore	„ Allnutt	1st March	173	1	0·57	1	0·57	1·15	Do.
„	„ Burmah	Meer Nazaff Ally	2nd „	180	.....	.....	1	0·55	0·55	
„	„ Lahore	Mr. Jones	7th „	111	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Bengal	„ Romaine	13th „	381	1	0·26	.....	.....	0·26	Do.
„	„ Rajmehal	„ Sobodhicary	17th „	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Patna	„ Talpade	21st „	59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
„	„ Progress	„ Sinclair	29th „	203	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
				2,450	27	1·11	3	0·12	1·23	

E.

Statement showing the Receipts and Charges of the Inland Labor Transport Fund for the year 1875-76, *as per Accountant-General's statement.*

Receipts.

	Receipts under section 33: fees for contractor's license.	Receipts under section 38: fees for recruiter's license.	Receipts under sections 23 and 46: fees for registration.	Receipts under section 63: fees for license of emigrant vessels.	Receipts under section 95: capitation fees levied from employers.	Receipts under section 97 and several other sections of the Act, on account of fines and penalties.	Receipts for the use of debarkation depôts and miscellaneous sundry receipts.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Surplus on 31st March 1875	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57,453 2 7
Inland Labor Transport Fund (under Act VII of 1873).	1,460 0 0	16,407 0 0	34,834 0 0	.....	26,808 0 0	.....	21,025 0 0	1,00,534 0 0
Total ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,57,977 2 7

Charges.

	Salaries and establishments.	Travelling allowance.	Stationery.	Service postage stamps.	Miscellaneous and contingencies.	Refunds.	Cost of medical stores.	Petty construction.	Hospital and dispensary.	Total.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Inland Labor Transport Fund (under Act VII of 1873).	18,119 0 0	765 0 0	7 0 0	68 0 0	4,396 0 0	128 0 0	314 0 0	2,271 0 0	3,836 0 0	29,894 0 0
Surplus on the 31st March 1876.	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,28,083 2 7
Total ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,57,977 2 7

J. G. G. Grant, M.D.,
Superintendent of Emigration.

T. B. C.—Regr. No. 103—181—8-1-77

EMIGRATION.

CALCUTTA, THE 16TH JANUARY 1877.

RESOLUTION.

READ—

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Emigration for the year 1875-76, on the recruitment and transport of emigrants to the labour districts of Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet.

Read again—

The Report for the previous year, with the orders of Government passed thereon.

In accounting for the delay which has occurred in the submission of the Annual Administration Report on inland emigration for the past year, Dr. Grant explains that his office has been employed in reducing arrears which had accumulated before the recent addition made to the strength of his establishment. These arrears having been disposed of, the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the Superintendent will now be able to keep abreast of the work which, as his returns shew, has largely increased of late, and more particularly during the past year.

2. In drawing up his report, Dr. Grant has been careful to explain certain matters of detail which in previous reports appeared to have received insufficient attention, and the record prepared by him of the operations of his department during the past year, bears in consequence a favourable comparison with the reports of previous years.

3. One of the chief points in which previous reports were defective was that they contained insufficient information as to the operations of recruiters in the interior. In the present report the defect has to some extent been supplied, and figures are given shewing the number of intending emigrants registered on recruitment: their history has also been traced from the time of registration to that of arrival in the tea districts.

4. The increased attention thus given to recruiting operations has apparently already borne fruit. Abuses and irregularities have been detected in a far larger number of instances than in previous years. This is no doubt, however, in part attributable to an increasing difficulty in obtaining recruits on the terms offered, and to the large consequent increase in the number of recruiters employed.

5. Full details, however, as to the recruiting agency employed will not be found in the present report, as the share taken in recruiting operations by garden sirdars, who are licensed not by the Emigration Department, but by the managers of tea gardens, is yearly increasing. It appears that the number of contractors who took out licenses during the year was eleven, or one in excess of the number licensed during the previous year. The number of recruiters licensed to act under them was 766, or 294 in excess of the number employed in the previous year. While in 1874-75 the licenses of four recruiters only were cancelled for misconduct against three in the previous year, the necessity which has existed for increasing so largely the number of recruiters, coupled with the closer supervision which has been exercised over them, has resulted in the cancellation during the past year of 43 licenses, or of 5·61 per cent. of the total number granted.

6. Dr. Grant points to the large number of recruits who, as will be noticed below, either abscond, or at the last moment prove unwilling to emigrate, as indicative of malpractices on the part of recruiters; and this inference is, the Lieutenant-Governor fears, to some extent unavoidable. As has,

however, more than once been represented on the part of the Colonial Emigration Agencies, it is no doubt probable that fraud and deception are not entirely on one side, and that persons are sometimes found who propose to emigrate with the simple intention of having the expenses of their journey to Calcutta defrayed. The Superintendent of Emigration appears to be fully alive to the exercise of careful supervision over the labourers who enter into agreements with recruiters, and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that his endeavours to rectify abuses will be attended with success.

7. The total number of labourers and their dependents registered as recruits for the tea districts of Assam was 33,175, of whom 16,542 were recruited by the agents of contractors, and 16,633 by garden sirdars. As noticed above, the figures for previous years were not furnished in the reports. Of the 33,175 recruits, 2,516 were registered with the intention of proceeding to Assam overland *vid* Dhoobree by the new route which was opened in the previous year. The remainder for the most part intended to proceed to Calcutta with a view to transmission from the depôts there *vid* Goalundo and Kooshtea either to Assam or to Cachar and Sylhet, though 7,781 of the number placed in small batches in the independent charge of garden sirdars would not necessarily take Calcutta on their way at all, but would be at liberty to proceed direct to Cachar and Sylhet, for which districts they were chiefly intended.

8. Were correct statistics obtainable regarding the journey of these latter emigrants from the districts where recruited to the tea districts, they would be specially valuable as having a bearing on the necessity for Government interference in the transport arrangements. The Lieutenant-Governor fears, however, that much reliance is not to be placed on the figures furnished in the present report, at least as regards that portion of the journey made by the coolies prior to their embarkation. It must rest with the tea planters themselves, by bringing their influence to bear on the sirdars employed by them, to render the statistics, as regards this portion of the journey, complete and accurate, and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the Superintendent of Emigration will obtain their co-operation in the matter of obtaining correct figures in future.

9. Of the 22,878 labourers registered for transmission to the Calcutta depôts, 6,336 were recruited by garden sirdars, and 16,542 by licensed recruiters. Of the latter, 376 or 2·26 per cent. absconded or were left behind as unwilling to emigrate, and 8 or 0·04 per cent. died on the journey. The corresponding numbers and percentages for the former class were only 33 or 0·47 per cent., and 2 or 0·03 per cent. respectively. All the recruits, 2,516 in number, registered for transmission to Assam overland *vid* Dhoobree, were recruited by garden sirdars. Of these, 22 or 0·87 absconded or were left behind, while no less than 50 or 1·98 per cent. died before reaching the place of embarkation.

10. Deducting deaths and desertions, amounting to 416, the balance is 22,462, and this number is said to have arrived in the Calcutta depôts. This figure, however, is suggestive of some error in the returns; for it is hardly possible that on the last day of the year there should not have been some emigrants on the journey between the recruiting districts and Calcutta. Similarly, there would seem to be some error in the returns relating to the depôts; for of 23,534 coolies to be accounted for (including the balance from the previous year), 1,506 only are said to have remained in depôt at the close of the year, the rest having been disposed of as shown in the margin.

Despatched on their journey .	19,489
Rejected by Medical Inspector	504
Released as unwilling	345
Absconded ..	1,067
Died	87
Sent to hospital	536

11. The report given of the condition of the several depôts, and of the treatment experienced by the labourers during their detention, is generally favourable. The duties of the Medical Inspector are reported to have been diligently performed, and the comfort of the men to have been well cared for. Of the total number of labourers in depôt during the year, 17,040 were recruited by contractors, and 6,494 by sirdars. Among the former the death-rate in depôt was 0·24 per cent. only (calculated upon the total number

detained), while among the latter it was 0·85 per cent. In view of these figures, it is noticeable that the proportion of men rejected by the Medical Inspector was less among the latter than among the former class. It is explained, however, that batches of labourers recruited by sirdars generally comprise entire families (among whom there is necessarily a large proportion of aged persons and infants), and that there is a difficulty in rejecting individual members, while contractors' recruits are generally single men in the prime of life. These facts it is no doubt important to bear in mind in considering the vital statistics of the several classes of emigrants.

12. Calculated on the total number of individuals detained in the several depôts in the course of the year, the percentage of mortality among the total number of emigrants was 0·37 against 0·53 per cent in 1874-75, and 0·41 per cent. in 1873-74. This result is favourable. If, however, it is possible to do so from the returns, the Lieutenant-Governor would prefer if, in future, percentages of sickness and mortality, calculated on the average number present daily, were also given, this being the method of calculation adopted generally in other departments.

13. Of the 19,489 emigrants shewn above to have been despatched from the Calcutta depôts with a view to embarking at Kooshtea and Goalundo, 87 are said to have absconded or staid behind as unwilling to emigrate, and 109 to have died either on the journey, or on reaching the place of embarkation. To the remainder must be added the emigrants who travelled there independently in the charge of garden sirdars, and of whom 7,569 reached the place of embarkation. Account must also be taken of the emigrants who proceeded *vid* Dhoobree, of whom 2,430 were despatched from that place, and we find that the total number of labourers despatched to the tea districts from the several places of embarkation was as follows:—

Districts to which despatched.	By Contractors.	By Sirdars.	Total.
To Assam	11,238	7,656	18,894
„ Cachar	2,641	7,389	10,030
„ Sylhet	157	233	390
Total ...	14,036	15,278	29,314

14. Comparing these figures with those for the previous year, it appears that, on the whole, the proportion of sirdars' recruits has increased, the ratio being 52 per cent. against 51 per cent. It is, however, the increase in the number of such men, who proceeded independently to the tea districts in small batches, which affords the chief subject for satisfaction in connection with the returns. The success of the experiment of permitting such emigrants to proceed *vid* Dhoobree direct to Assam appears to be now well assured. Of the whole number of labourers who proceeded to the districts of Cachar and Sylhet during the year, namely 10,420, no less than 7,490 were men proceeding under arrangements made independently of Government. This result is very encouraging, as bearing upon the future supply of labour to the tea districts.

15. The following table, which exhibits the number of emigrants despatched during the past four years to these districts, will shew how the requirements of an extending cultivation are being met:—

	To Assam.	To Cachar and Sylhet.	Total.
1872-73	8,140	6,271	14,411
1873-74	15,351	10,460	25,811
1874-75	11,267	10,423	21,690
1875-76	18,894	10,420	29,314

It will be seen that, while during the past three years the flow of emigrants to Cachar and Sylhet has been nearly constant, the supply to the Assam districts has been subject to considerable fluctuations. The result, however, that in the past year no less than 18,894 labourers were despatched to Assam, against only 8,140 in the year 1872-73, shews how largely the demand has increased, and the success which has been obtained in meeting it.

16. The increase reported to have taken place during the past year in inland emigration has, it is to be observed, been contemporaneous with a great decrease in foreign and colonial emigration. Dr. Grant, however, takes the opportunity of pointing out that as the field where recruiting is carried on for the one branch of emigration is quite distinct from that for the other, the one result cannot be held to have had any effect on the other. The districts named as those whence chiefly the supply of labour for the tea districts was obtained during the past year continue to be those of Western Bengal and Chota Nagpore. A large number of recruits also seem to be picked up, away from their homes, in the neighbourhood of the Grand Trunk Road. It is said that they are generally travelling in search of employment when met by the recruiters. This may be so; at the same time it is necessary that Magistrates should be on the alert to prevent any evasion of the law which requires all recruits to be taken to the local Magistrate before leaving the district where recruited.

17. The following table shews the proportion in which the despatches of labourers to the tea districts during the past two years were composed of "emigrants" and of their "dependents," including children and infants—

Districts to which despatched	1874-75		1875-76	
	Emigrants.	Dependents	Emigrants	Dependents
Assam Proper	7,979	3,294	14,373	4,535
Cachar and Sylhet	7,187	3,236	7,632	2,798
Total	15,160	6,530	22,005	7,333

The figures given in this table will be found to differ somewhat from those given above, as the details have been furnished for those who arrived at Dhoobree overland, instead of for those who were embarked at that station. The discrepancy is trifling however, and does not affect the general result.

18. Of the 22,005 laborers as distinguished from dependents who were despatched during the year, 9,375 or 42·6 per cent. were females. Among the dependents despatched along with the laborers were 2,742 boys, 2,284 girls, and 1,881 infants. These results are satisfactory, as indicating the increasing extent to which whole families betake themselves to the tea districts with a view to settling permanently there.

19. Of the 18,894 persons despatched to the districts of Assam Proper, 217 died from cholera, and 93 from other causes, on the journey after leaving the port of embarkation. The total percentage of deaths from all causes was 1·7 among those despatched from Goalundo and Kooshtea, and 1·23 per cent. among those despatched from Dhoobree. The former figures give the result of a mortality of 1·33 per cent. among contractors' recruits, and of 2 52 per cent. among sirdars' recruits on the voyage. The corresponding ratios for the previous year were 2·12 per cent. among the former, and 4·68 per cent. among the latter class, and an average mortality of 3 28 per cent. among all classes. With reference to these improved results, Dr. Grant states that, "as several co-existent causes have been in operation, it is impossible under the circumstances

to determine the precise share which each may have had in bringing them about; but those which appear to have had a prominent part in occasioning the improvement noticed are the provision of additional warm clothing and shelter for the emigrants against the depressing effects of cold winds on the passage, and the reduction in the duration of the passage, and the extension of the four days observation rule to all sirdaree coolies not forwarded through the licensed depôts. With reference to the point last noticed, it is to be observed that 101 of the class referred to were despatched from Goalundo, and that all arrived safely at their destination. The weeding of the men embarked at Dhoobree may doubtless have had an important bearing in preserving the health of the whole body of labourers proceeding to Assam, but here the shortening of the river journey comes in to prevent any certain deductions from the results obtained.

20. Of the 10,420 men despatched to the districts of Cachar and Sylhet, 209 died of cholera, and 69 from other diseases; the average rate of mortality from all causes being thus 2·6 per cent. Among contractors' recruits the mortality was 0·72 per cent. against 1·77 per cent. in the previous year. As regards sirdars' recruits, the ratio for the previous year was not given. For the past year it was 3·4 per cent. As regards this last figure, however, Dr. Grant explains that his returns shew, in the case of these labourers, only the total mortality which occurred from the time they were recruited till their arrival at their destination. It is not therefore of much value for the purposes of comparison.

21. Dr. Grant again in his present report expresses an opinion in favour of reducing the number of emigrants to be carried in a single trip on the voyage to Assam. It appears to the Lieutenant-Governor, however, that his conclusions are based on a somewhat limited number of observed facts, and, till the matter has been more thoroughly investigated, it would be premature to take any action in the direction indicated.

22. In the 14th and succeeding paragraphs of his report, Dr. Grant gives an account of the results of the experiment of sending emigrants to Assam *viâ* Dhoobree. Some doubt is thrown by the local authorities on the accuracy of the returns of mortality furnished by the sirdars in charge of the coolies, but Dr. Grant accepts them as correct. They shew a large number of deaths from cholera before arrival at Dhoobree. In the depôts at that place the mortality is reported to have been trifling, and, in the subsequent part of the journey, the death-rate was not excessive. Dr. Grant, however, still reserves his opinion till greater experience has been gained as to the advantages or otherwise of the new route.

23. The return appended to the report shews that the present condition of the Labour Transport Fund is prosperous. The total receipts during the year were Rs. 1,00,524, to which is to be added a balance of Rs. 57,453. The total charges were Rs. 29,894 only, leaving a surplus at the close of the year of Rs. 1,57,977. The accuracy of some of the figures of the return which has been prepared by the Account Department is apparently questioned by Dr. Grant. He should now carefully enquire into the matter, and should submit an amended return if necessary, when he has satisfied himself as to the correctness of the figures.

24. The manner in which Dr. Grant has conducted his duties as Superintendent of Emigration during the year has continued to merit the approbation of Government. Dr. Palmer, the Medical Inspector of Emigrants, and Dr. Richards, the Embarkation Agent at Goalundo, are both mentioned as having earned the approbation of the Superintendent, who is requested to convey to them an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's thanks for the efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties. In conclusion, the thanks of Government are also due to Dr. Grant for the care with which he has prepared his report.

ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution, with a copy of the Report, be submitted for information to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, and to the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Also that a copy of the Resolution be sent to the Superintendent of Emigration for infomation and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

R. L. MANGLES,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 181.

COPY of the Resolution, as well as of the Report, forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam for the information of the Chief Commissioner.

No. 182.

COPY of the Resolution forwarded to the Superintendent of Emigration for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

J. CRAWFURD,

Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 16th January 1877.

C. R. G.—Reg No. 390—17-1-77.